



THE WALKING DEAD

32

\$2.99
\$3.35 CAN



CLIFF
Cliff 106

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD

Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones, Cover Colors, Back Cover

RUS WOOTON

Letterer

Previously:

With his regular fighters dead, The Governor made a deal with Michonne--she fought in the arena in return for a reprieve from his brutality. Instead of a clean, staged fight like all the other arena fights, Michonne killed her opponent, and all the zombies around them. This sent The Governor into a blind fury--he stopped just short of killing her. Meanwhile, Rodriguez, a security officer in Woodbury, has decided to help Rick escape.

For Image Comics



Erik Larsen
Publisher

Todd McFarlane
President

Marc Silvestri
CEO

Jim Valentino
Vice-President

Eric Stephenson
Executive Director

Jim Demonakos
PR & Marketing Coordinator

Thao Le
Accounts Manager

Traci Hui
Administrative Assistant

Joe Keatinge
Traffic Manager

Allen Hui
Production Manager

Jonathan Chan
Production Artist

Drew Gill
Production Artist

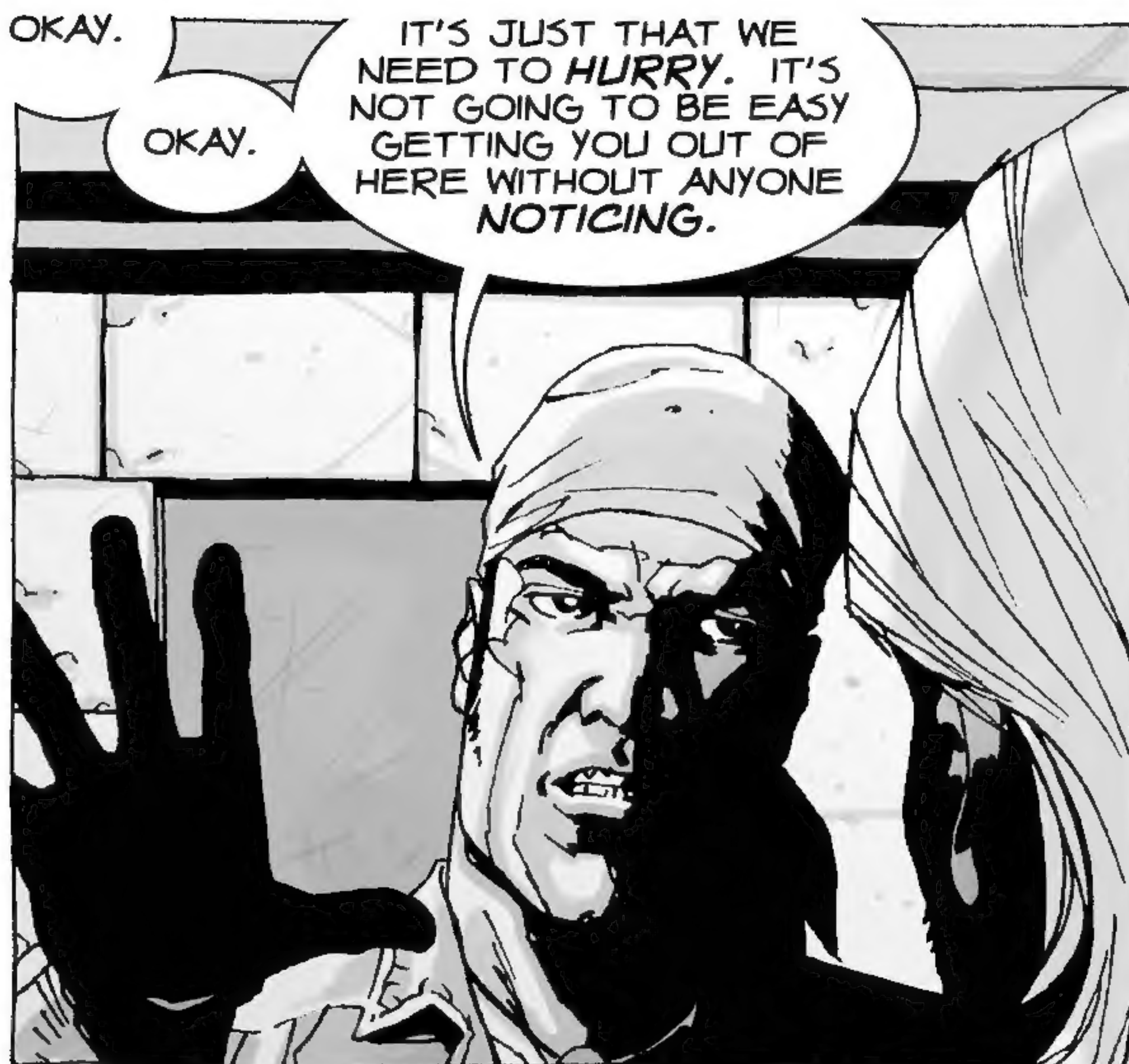
Chris Giarrusso
Production Artist

www.imagecomics.com

THE WALKING DEAD #32. November 2006. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2006 Robert Kirkman. All rights reserved. THE WALKING DEAD™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.



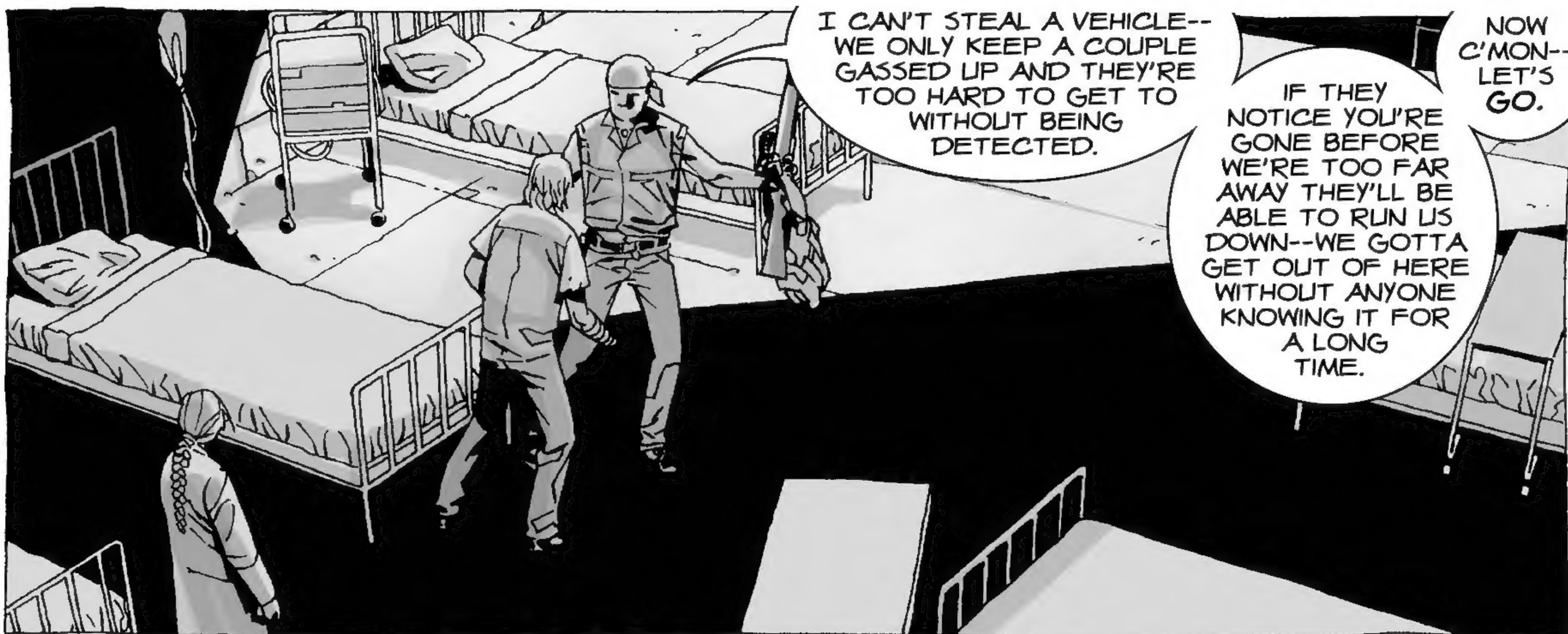
LET GO
OF ME GOD
DAMMIT!



OKAY.

OKAY.

IT'S JUST THAT WE
NEED TO **HURRY**. IT'S
NOT GOING TO BE EASY
GETTING YOU OUT OF
HERE WITHOUT ANYONE
NOTICING.



I CAN'T STEAL A VEHICLE--
WE ONLY KEEP A COUPLE
GASSED UP AND THEY'RE
TOO HARD TO GET TO
WITHOUT BEING
DETECTED.

IF THEY
NOTICE YOU'RE
GONE BEFORE
WE'RE TOO FAR
AWAY THEY'LL BE
ABLE TO RUN US
DOWN--WE GOTTA
GET OUT OF HERE
WITHOUT ANYONE
KNOWING IT FOR
A LONG
TIME.

NOW
C'MON--
LET'S
GO.



BUT WAIT--THEY
TOLD ME THERE
ARE GUARDS
POSTED AT
THE DOOR?

HOW
ARE WE
GETTING PAST
THEM?

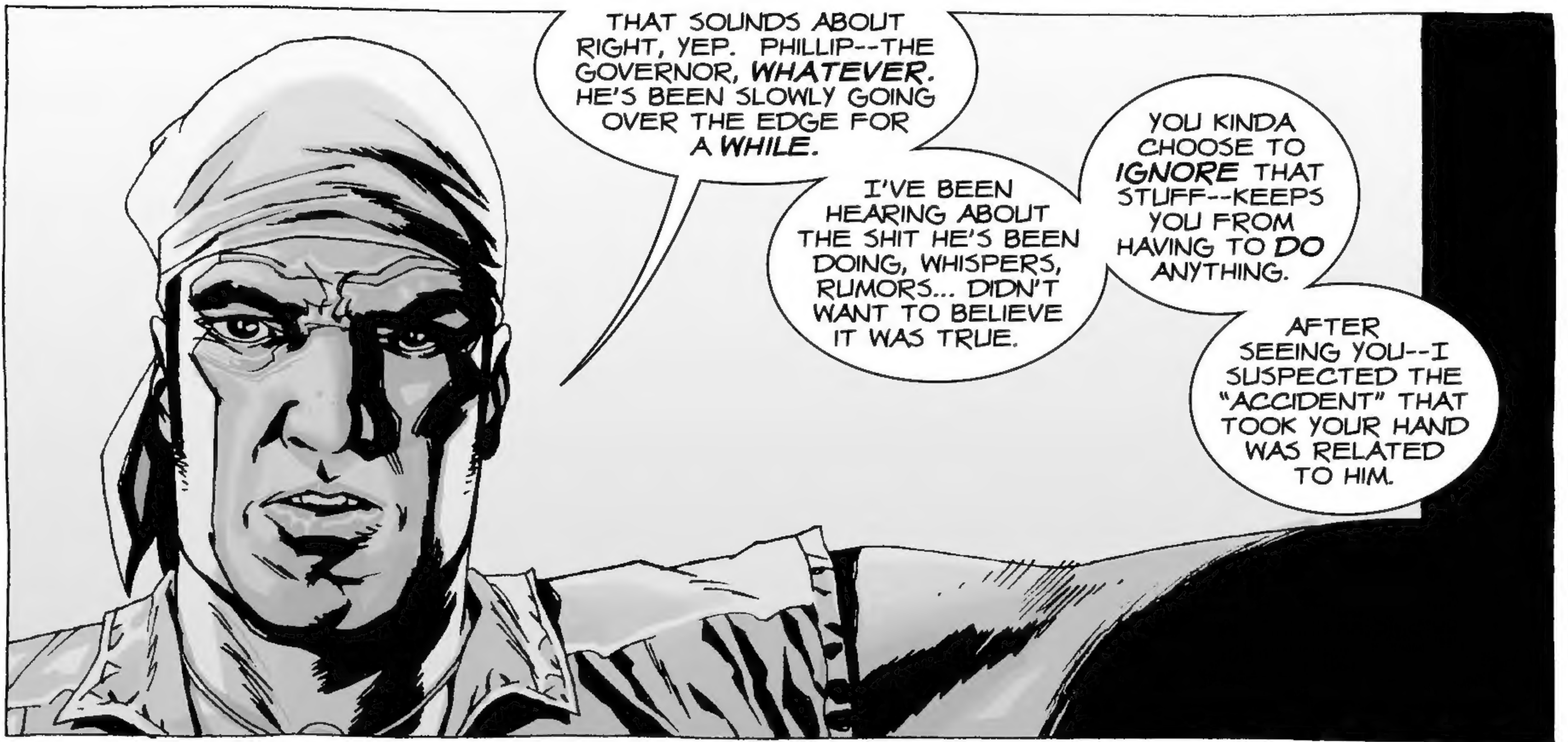


WE ALREADY
TOOK CARE
OF THEM.



"WE?"





THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT, YEP. PHILLIP--THE GOVERNOR, **WHATEVER**. HE'S BEEN SLOWLY GOING OVER THE EDGE FOR A **WHILE**.

I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THE SHIT HE'S BEEN DOING, WHISPERS, RUMORS... DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT WAS TRUE.

YOU KINDA CHOOSE TO **IGNORE** THAT STUFF--KEEPS YOU FROM HAVING TO **DO** ANYTHING.

AFTER SEEING YOU--I SUSPECTED THE "ACCIDENT" THAT TOOK YOUR HAND WAS RELATED TO HIM.

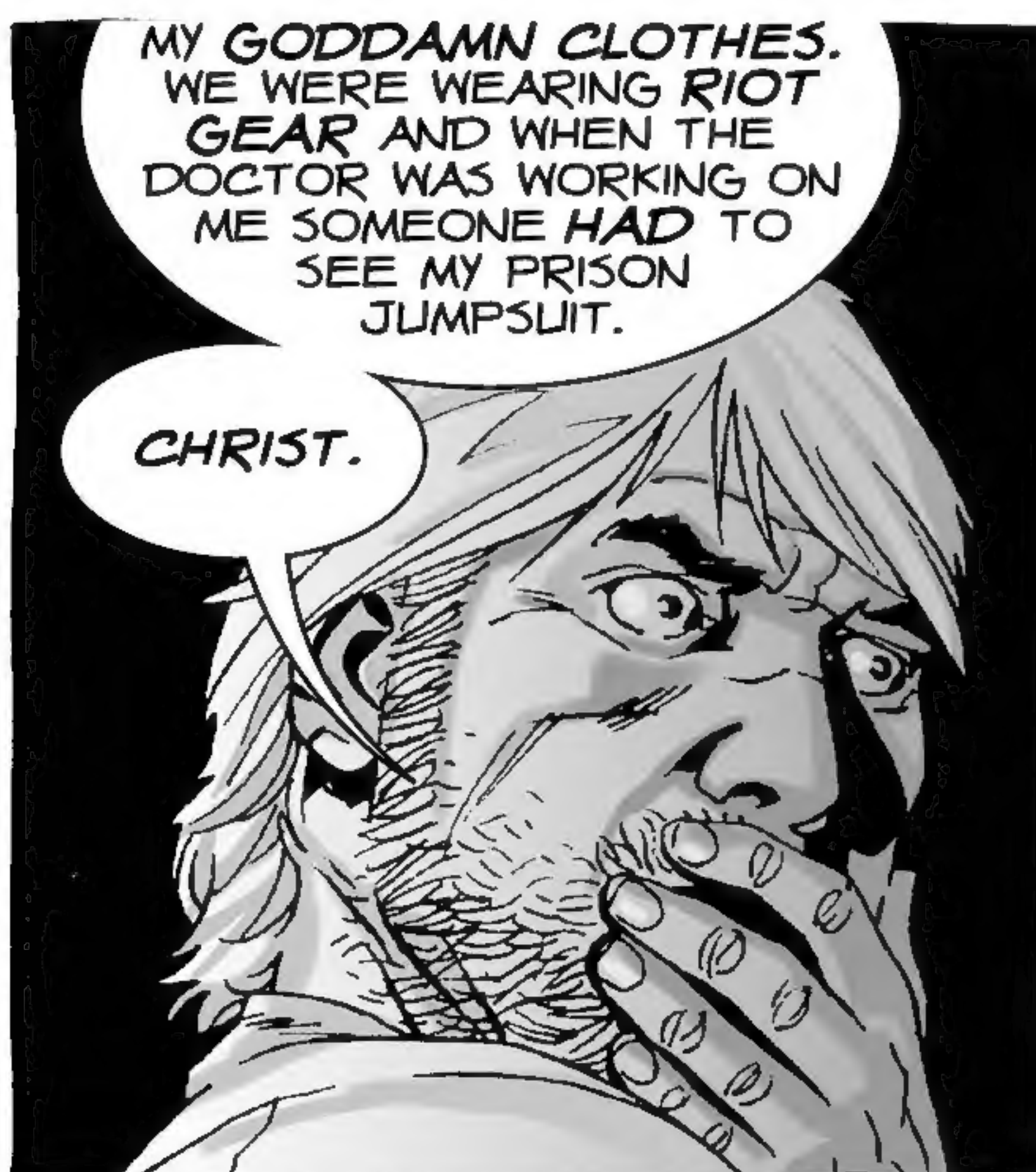


HE ASKED ME TO FILL IN FOR HIS GUARDS--WATCH THE GARAGE HE WAS KEEPING GLENN IN. I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS KEEPING **PRISONERS** IN HERE.

I MOSTLY WORKED SECURITY--ALL MY TIME WAS SPENT ON THE **FENCES**.

I COULDN'T LET IT GO ON--I HAD TO HELP PUT A STOP TO THIS MADNESS.

WE'RE STILL **HUMAN**, **GODDAMN** IT.



MY **GODDAMN CLOTHES**. WE WERE WEARING **RIOT GEAR** AND WHEN THE DOCTOR WAS WORKING ON ME SOMEONE **HAD** TO SEE MY **PRISON JUMPSUIT**.

CHRIST.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

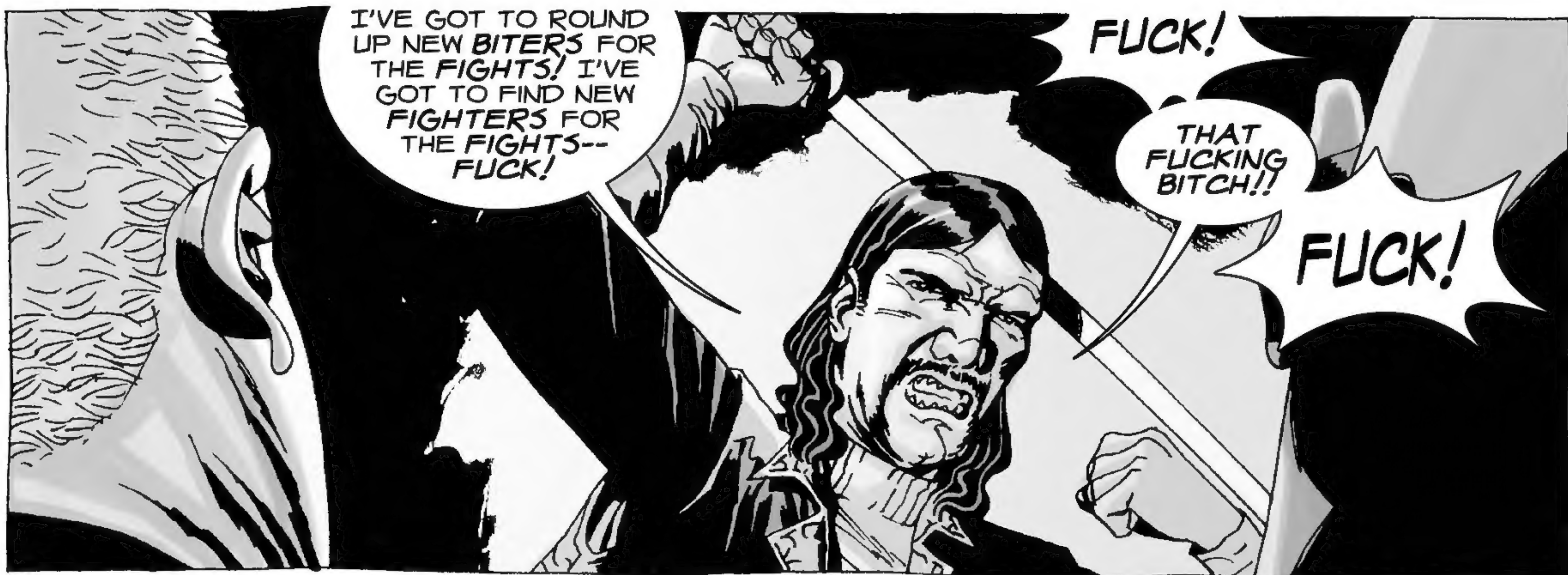
THAT'S HOW HE KNEW ABOUT THE PRISON.

HOW COULD I BE SO **STUPID**?



COME ON--WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.









WAIT!

PLEASE,
STOP!



WHAT IS IT,
ALICE?

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

I WAS THINKING
ABOUT IT--AND, IF
YOU'RE GOING, I
WANT YOU TO TAKE
US *WITH* YOU.
DOCTOR STEVENS
AND I.

WHEREVER
YOU'RE LIVING
HAS GOT TO BE
BETTER THAN
THIS... AND WITH
YOUR WIFE
PREGNANT, I'M
SURE YOU
COULD *USE*
US.



I'M NOT
ARGUING WITH
THAT. WE'D
LOVE TO HAVE
YOU.

WE
NEED
TO GO,
NOW.



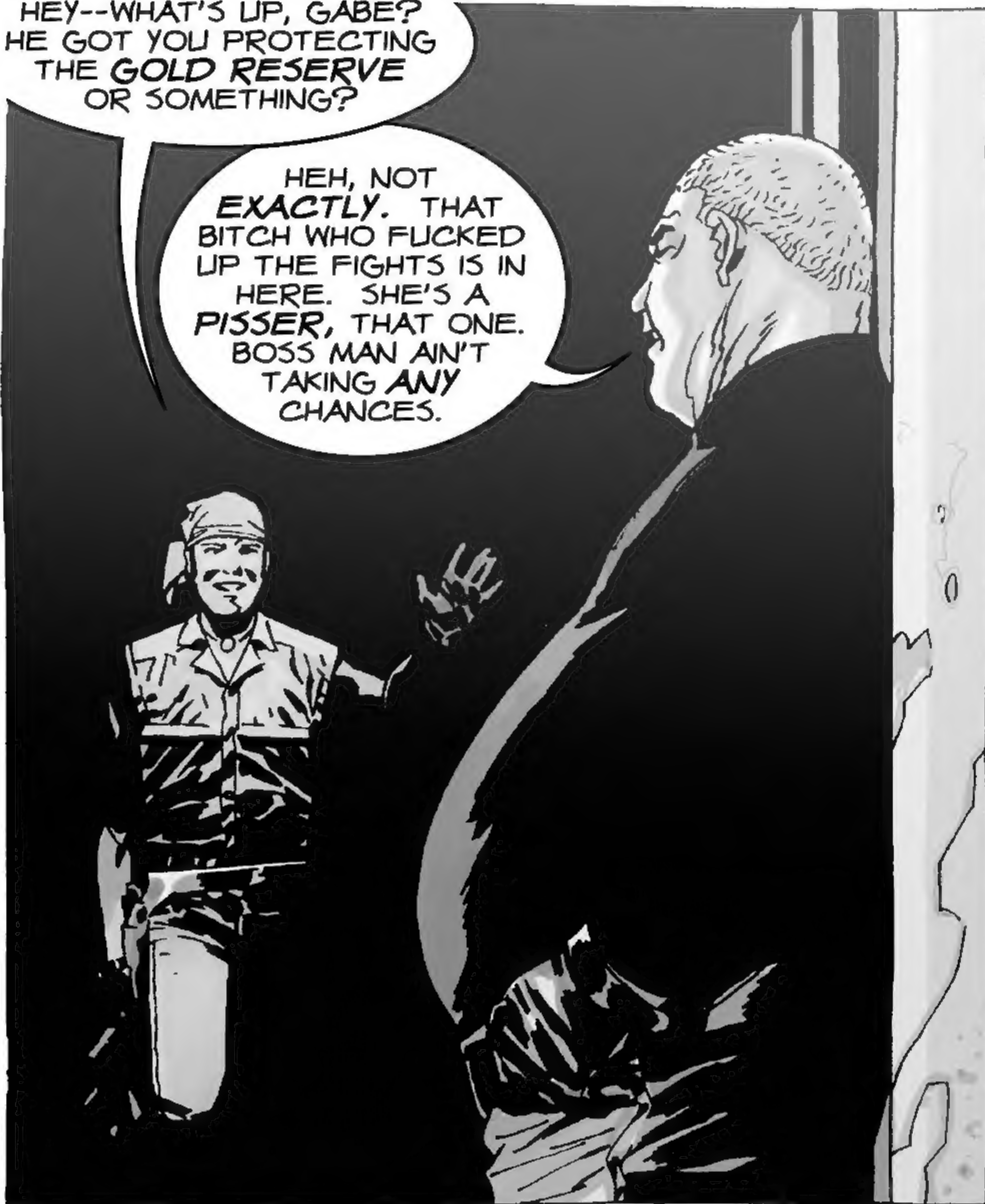
IF WE'RE GOING
TO GET OUT OF
HERE WITHOUT
ANY TROUBLE--
WE'VE GOT TO
HURRY.

GLENN, DO YOU
KNOW WHERE
MICHONNE
IS?



HEY--WHAT'S UP, GABE?
HE GOT YOU PROTECTING
THE **GOLD RESERVE**
OR SOMETHING?

HEH, NOT
EXACTLY. THAT
BITCH WHO FUCKED
UP THE FIGHTS IS IN
HERE. SHE'S A
PISSEY, THAT ONE.
BOSS MAN AIN'T
TAKING **ANY**
CHANCES.



THINK I COULD HAVE
A LOOK? JUST A PEEK.
DIDN'T GET A GOOD
LOOK AT HER AT THE
FIGHT. SEEMED
HOT.

OH, YEAH--SHE
WAS HOT. AFTER
THE BEATING THE
GOVERNOR THREW
HER, THOUGH,
SHE--







YEAH--
CHRIST--
OKAY.

ARE YOU
OKAY?



NO.

NOT
EVEN
CLOSE.



DO YOU
NEED--?

NO.
I GOT
IT.



LET'S
GET THE
FUCK OUT
OF HERE.



STOP!

SOMEONE'S COMING.



I CAN HANDLE THIS. PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING YET.

I'LL KEEP THEM FROM SEEING YOU.

RODRIGUEZ?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



UH, DOC--WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO GET YOU. WE'RE LEAVING HERE--THIS TOWN. WE WANT YOU TO COME WITH US.

WHAT?
WHO'S WE?



HEY, DOC.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? YOU WITH US, OR NOT?



I JUST NEED TO GATHER SOME SUPPLIES FROM THE INFIRMARY AND THEN WE CAN GO.

WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.



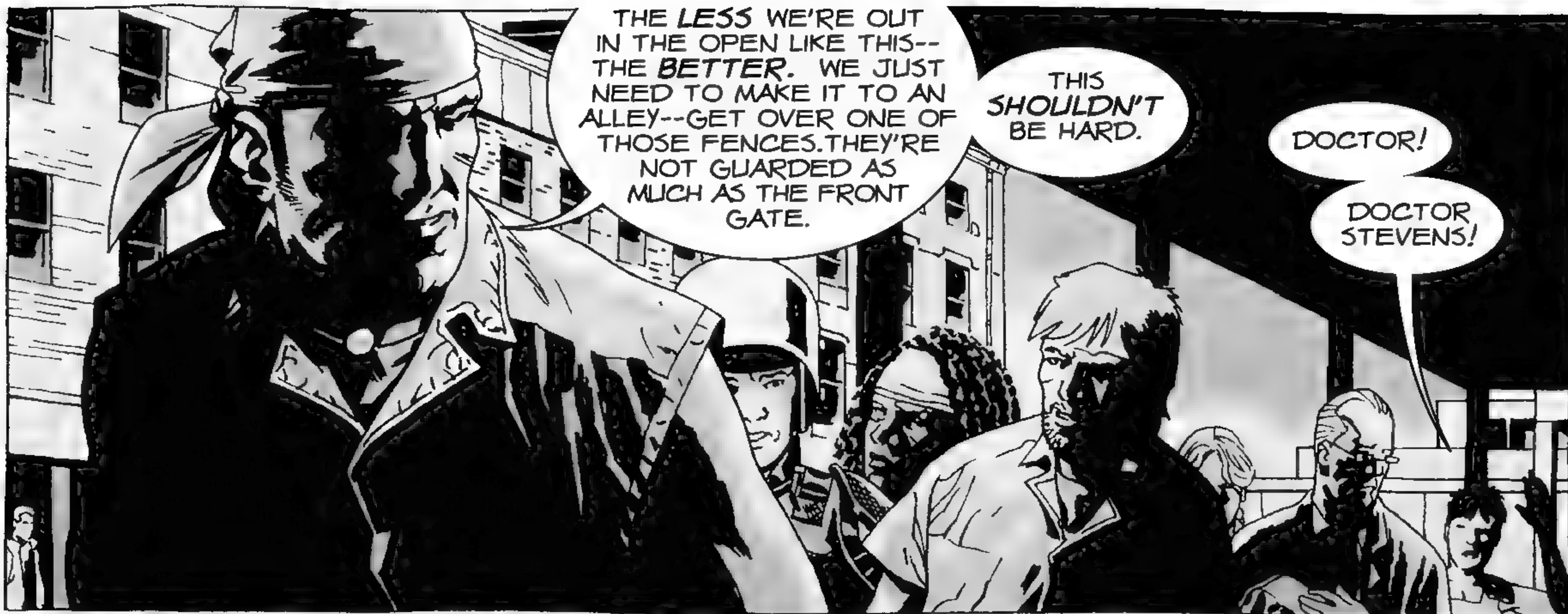


WHAT'S
THE FASTEST
WAY OUT OF
HERE?

THIS
WAY.

JUST KEEP
FOLLOWING--I'LL
GET US OUT
OF HERE.

Chris '06



THE **LESS** WE'RE OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS-- THE **BETTER**. WE JUST NEED TO MAKE IT TO AN ALLEY--GET OVER ONE OF THOSE FENCES. THEY'RE NOT GUARDED AS MUCH AS THE FRONT GATE.

THIS **SHOULDN'T** BE HARD.

DOCTOR!

DOCTOR STEVENS!



OH, HELLO MISS WILLIAMS.

UM... WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU LIKE THIS BUT MY SON, MATTHEW, HE'S GOT A SLIGHT **FEVER**. I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING BUT I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES.

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIME LATER TODAY?



OF COURSE. I--I JUST...

I'LL SEE HIM **THEN**. I'LL BE--I'LL MAKE SURE I FIT HIM IN.

JUST BRING HIM BY MY OFFICE LATER TODAY. IF YOU COULD--



SURE, I'LL-- ARE YOU OKAY DOCTOR STEVENS?

YOU SEEM UPSET.

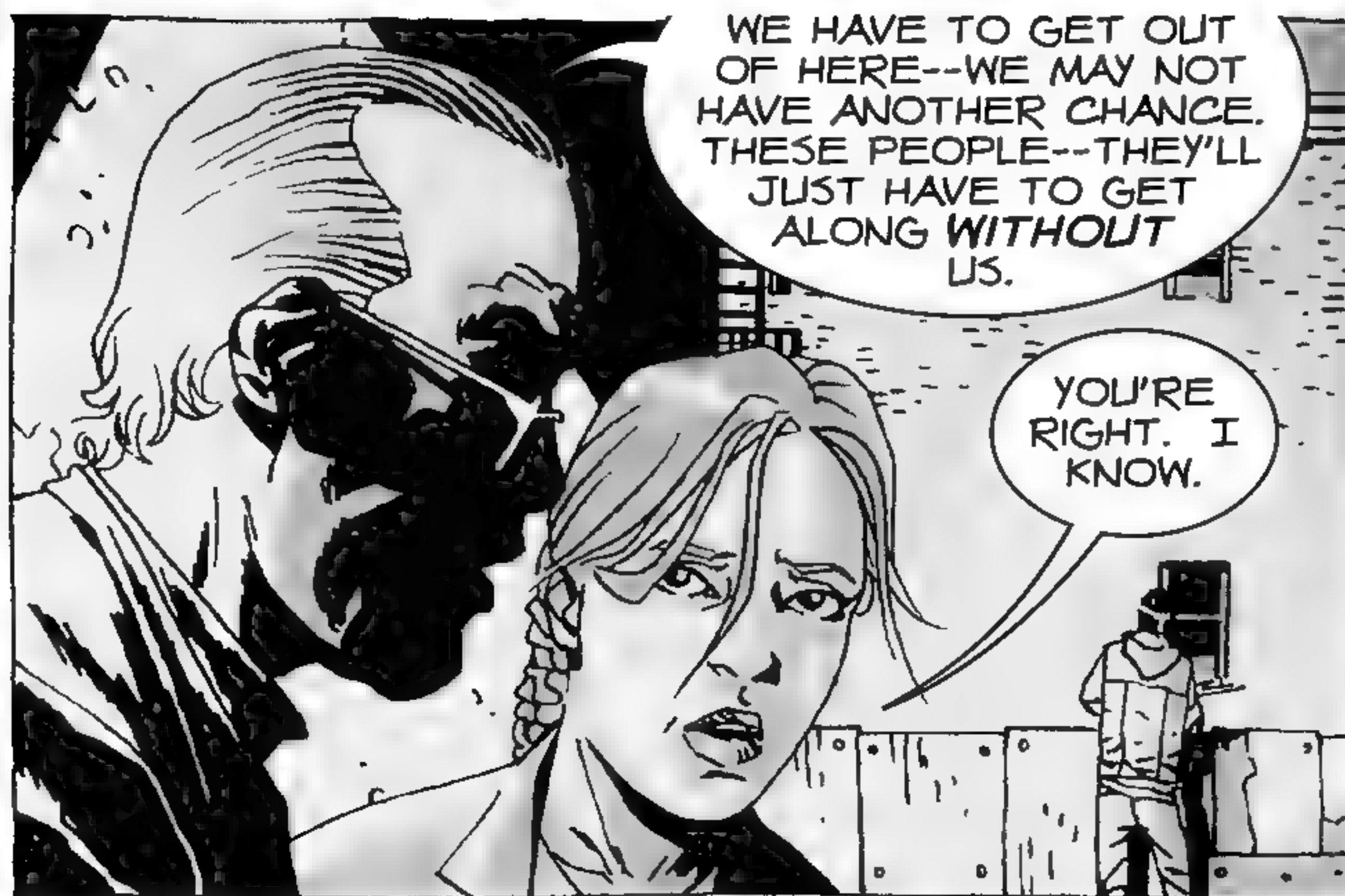
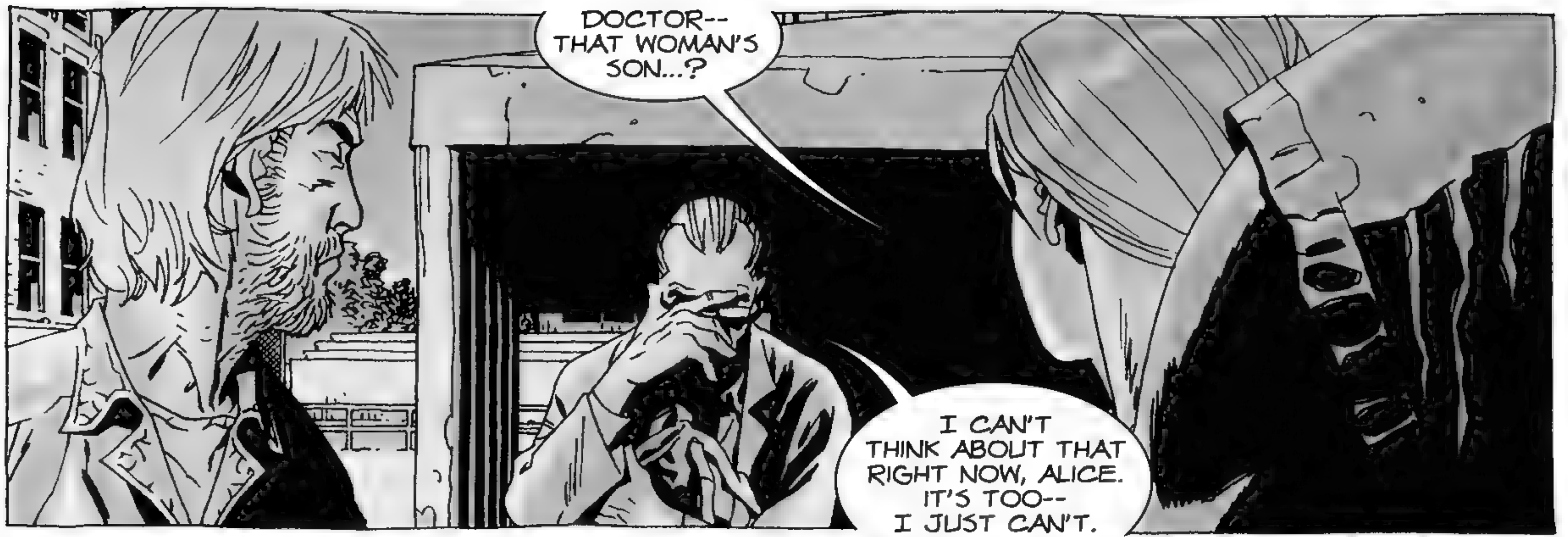


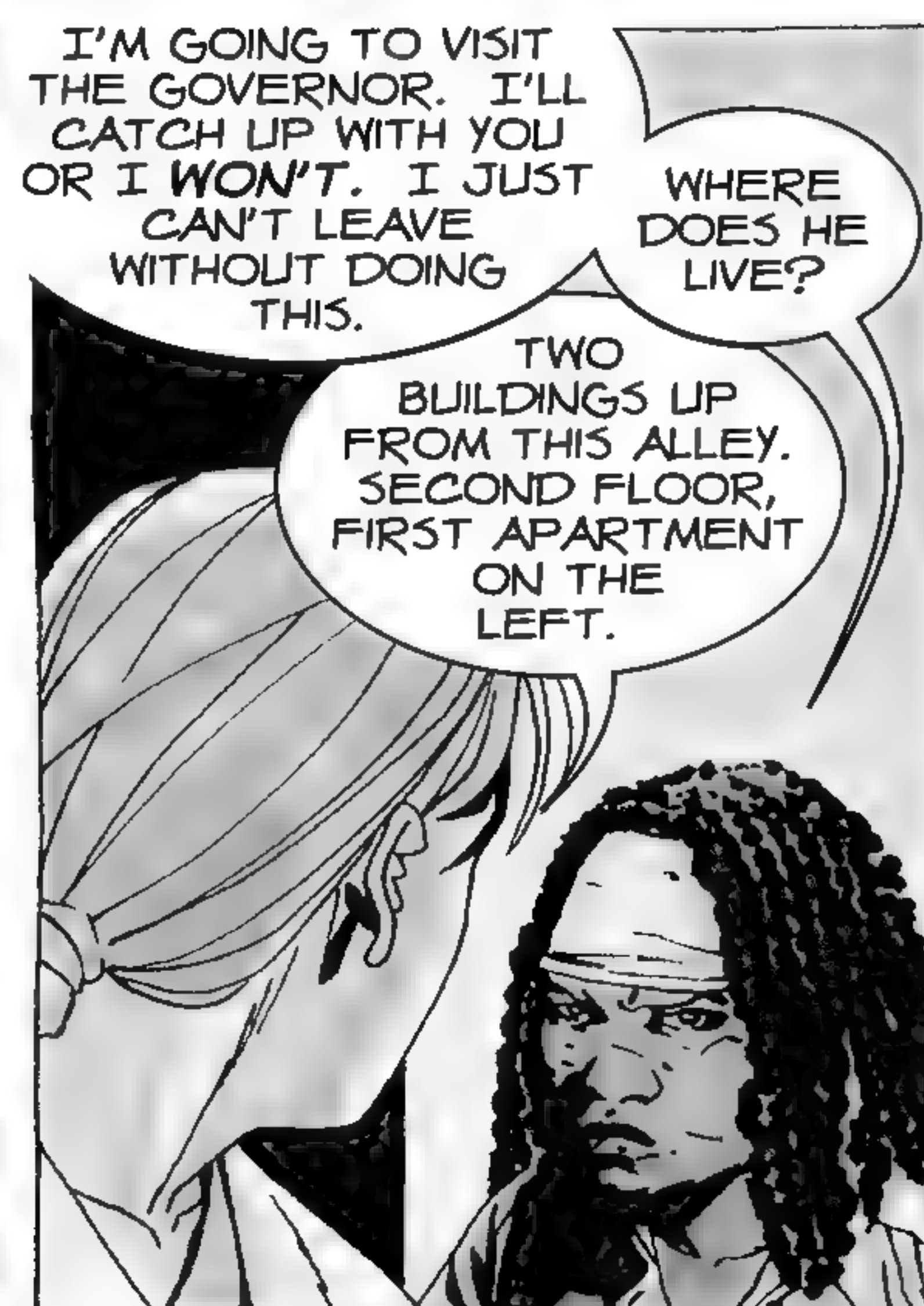
I'M **FINE**-- **REALLY**. I'M JUST--I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING RIGHT NOW.

I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE BUT I **MUST** BE GOING.



I'M SORRY.







I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE JUST LEFT US LIKE THAT. I MEAN-- SHOULD WE HELP HER? I DIDN'T LIKE THAT GUY EITHER.

TRUST ME, GLENN--WE'D PROBABLY JUST SLOW HER DOWN. OUR SAFEST BET IS GETTING OUT NOW WHILE WE CAN.

MICHONNE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF... AND I GET THE IMPRESSION THIS IS SOMETHING SHE'D WANT TO DO ALONE.



THERE YOU GO--YOU'RE OKAY. ALMOST THERE.

JUST WATCH THE HANDS.



HERE GOES-- BE READY TO CATCH ME JUST IN CASE.



THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY--YOU GUYS GOT ME?



OOOH-- DON'T DROP HIM. BE CAREFUL.

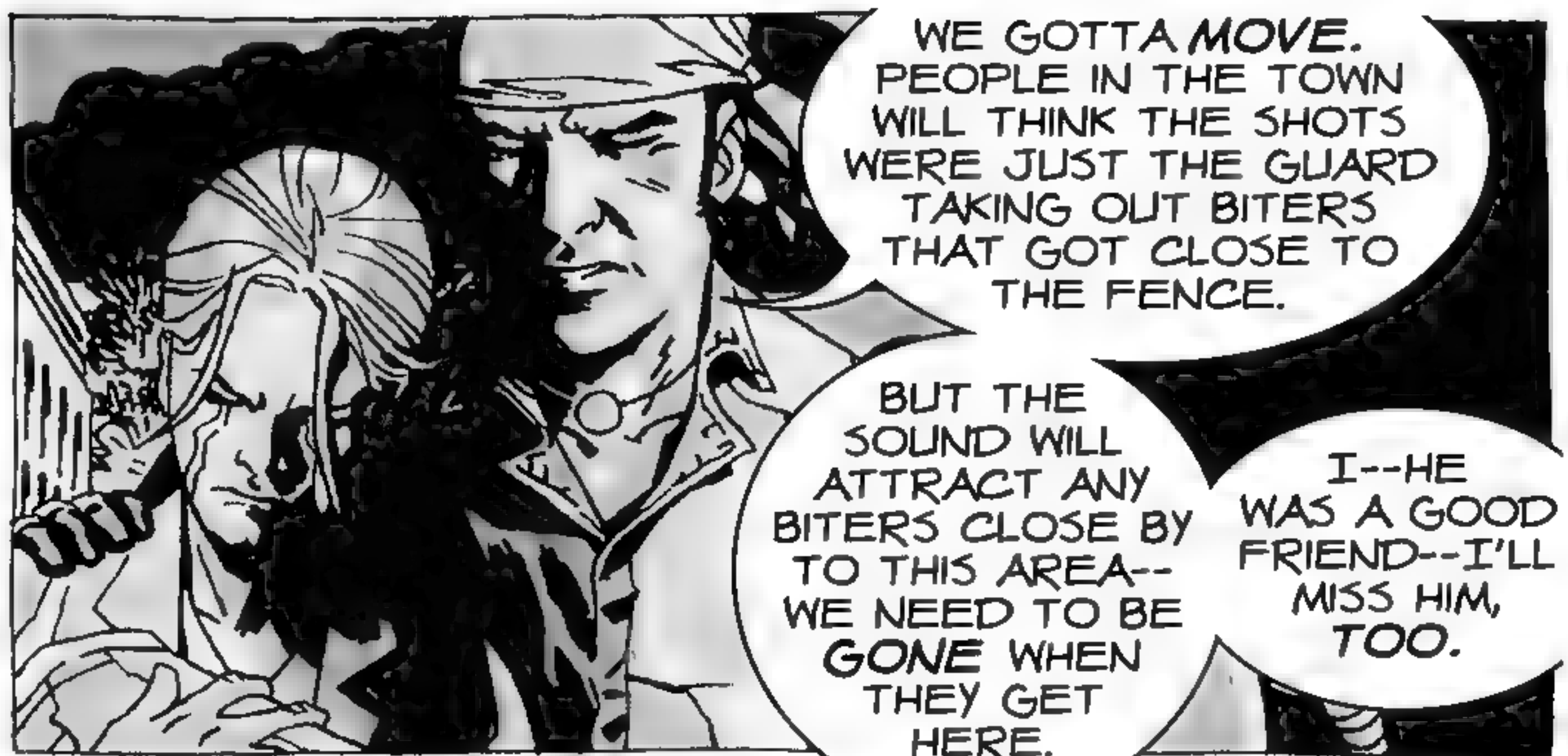
WE'VE GOT YOU, RICK--JUST EASE ON DOWN.

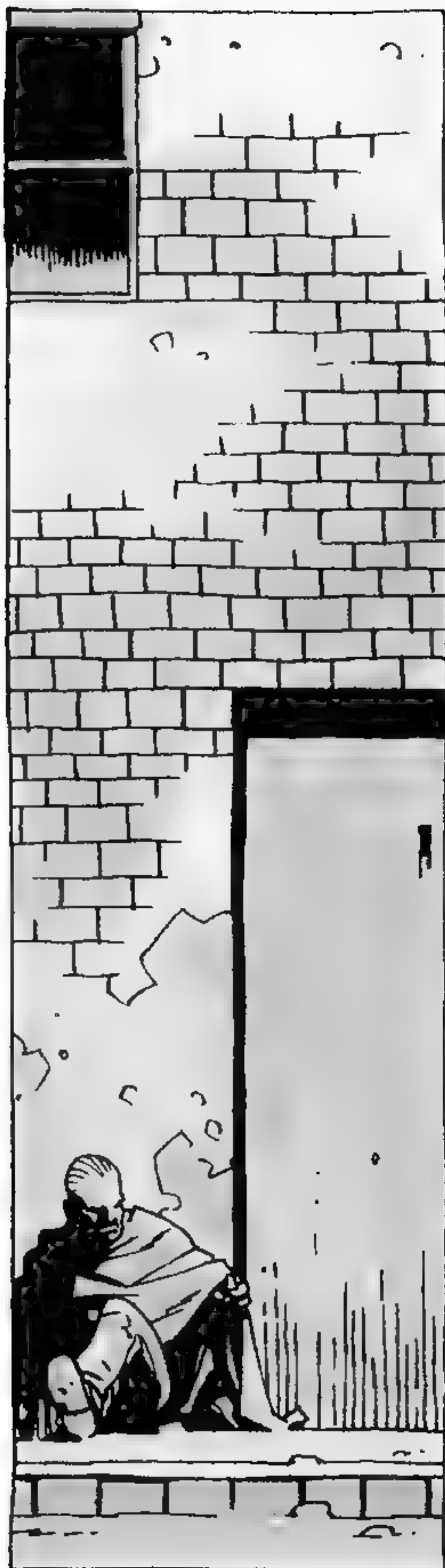
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WE MADE IT OUT OF THERE SO EASILY. I MEAN-- THE WALLS AREN'T EXACTLY MEANT TO KEEP PEOPLE IN... BUT...



I'M JUST SO RELIEVED.









WELL...

...THIS
SHOULD BE
INTERESTING.



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Issue 32 is here, people! The zombie movie that never ends just keeps on not ending and I, for one, couldn't be happier.

Charlie and Cliff have really outdone themselves on this issue. Just when you think these two couldn't do a better job they just come out and blow you away! Nice job, guys.

If you haven't pre-ordered your Walking Dead busts from your local comic shop or from csmoorestudio.com please do so NOW--you will NOT be disappointed. Sculptor-supreme did an AMAZING job on these and you don't want to miss them.

Now let's answer some damn letters!

Dear Bob,

First off I absolutely love this comic, I just started reading them a little less than a month ago and I'm hooked. I find myself yearning for the next one to come out. Now with the questions and comments.

1. I was relieved when Rick had gotten his bad hand chopped off, because other wise he would be kinda useless for a while.

Yeah, and now we don't have to make sure he doesn't USE that hand by accident...

2. In issue #28 when the Govenor was watching the zombies eating the corpses was that a zombie cheerleader at the far right corner of the room.

Could be.

3. If Lori had a miscarriage would the baby become a zombie baby and A) Eat her from the inside out or B) Will she give birth to a zombie baby that would attack Hershel upon delivery.

Possibly BOTH! You never know.

Keep up the good work!!
Matt M.

P.S. Please print my letter!!

Will do!

Mr. Kirkman,

I just finished reading Walking Dead 29. I've previously read the rest of the series, except 28 which I missed. Until now I've enjoyed the series, at least in as much as one can enjoy a series full of heartbreak and misery.

Sadly, I think you've made a huge misstep with this last issue. It isn't gory or sad or heartbreaking. It is vile. It is virtually a celebration of cruelty. It was difficult for me to get through the whole issue.

Before you dismiss this as just another silly moralistic diatribe, let me tell you about myself. I'm your standard thirty-something Canadian atheist at the liberal end of the liberal spectrum. You won't find a more vociferous defender of freedom of expression. I guess what worries me is that if a work doesn't have any meaning or message (which this issue clearly does not), then all that's left is it's value as entertainment. It makes me cringe to think that the material you present in this issue might be anyone's idea of entertainment.

Why am I bothering to write this? I guess I was fairly shocked (I just finished reading it). I made reconsider reading anything you

write, although I'll still be picking up Invincible and I'll give Ant-man a shot. Anyway, I know that if I was writing something I'd want to know when I'd made an impact on someone either way, so there you go. For the sake of your remaining readers (you won't count me among them), I hope you can right the ship on future issues.

Sincerely,
Alan Brown

This is a harsh world and harsh things are going to happen to the characters. If you can't handle what happened to Michonne, it's a good thing you're getting off the crazy ride now because I'm sure there are worse things ahead.

Robert,

I was never into comics even as a kid--never followed a monthly book--never really gave a rat's fanny about them until a friend introduced me to Gaiman's Sandman, which got me interested in the art form, but I still never bought a monthly book. Never really cared about zombies, either. They just didn't interest me.

Considering, then, my apathy toward both comics and zombies, the fact that I am now a slaving Walking Dead addict who buys the monthly books speaks volumes for your talents and those of Messrs. Adlard and Rathburn. That really ought to make you proud.

Now on to the questions.

You've mentioned in previous Letter Hacks columns that you have no plans to reveal the origin of the zombie plague, which is, I think, a good move--but as time goes by, are we going to learn more about them? Thus far, we know that the zombies are a) dead; b) ravenous; c) retain no memory of their prior lives, nor any brain functions beyond "eat" and "chase"; d) divided into two categories--roamers and lurkers, and e) die when their brains are bashed in. I could stand to learn more. Seems to me that if Rick & Co. have the chance to learn more information about them, it's another good device to keep people hooked and buying.

We'll certainly learn more about them--but I'd like to point out that we know even LESS than you state here. I mean, just because our characters have started to refer to them as roamers and lurkers that doesn't mean that there actually are two categories or that there are ONLY two categories. The characters don't have all the answers--they could be wrong about a LOT of things.

Bear in mind that I'm not telling you how to do your job, or suggesting improvements. It's pretty obvious the series doesn't need any, or I wouldn't keep buying the books. Basically, this is just me saying, "I'd like to learn more about the zombies."

Tell me more about the zombies, dammit!

Your devoted fan,
Jim Palmer

P.S. Comics aside, you're a pretty fine writer. The aforementioned Gaiman seems to have transitioned from comics to novels (he should go back to comics)--any plans to do any noncomic writing?

If there is ever a Walking Dead spin-off with other characters in another part of the country... I plan for that

to be a novel series... but I have to learn how to write novels first. So it will probably never happen.

Letter Hacks,

Your work is top of the game, thank you. I can't wait 'til the governor gets axe to the head or torn up by zombies. Charlie, I just bought some of your art over on splashpageart.com after hearing about that in the lettercols. I definitely read the lettercols! Keep 'em goin' if you can, especially with letters like that AK-47 expert... tell us more dude! So how did Charlie draw such a good AK-47... and does Charlie live in England or something... how do you get your scripts to him?

Carrier pigeon, usually. They've got these kick-ass bank tube things that will get stuff over there--but I can't afford those.

What made you choose Moby Dick as the book that woman was reading? I try and balance my pop reading with classics and just started that one like 2 weeks ago. It's frickin hilarious... well okay it is quite funny if you get past the extremely detailed descriptions... I can see how that sucker would be good for illustration. Any favorite classics of yours, Kirkman? TWD is classic, dude. You've got all these characters to handle and I admire that you take the panels to develop them. You've got the long view in mind and yet each issue and story-arc is great in itself.

What's the next con you'll be at? Do you want to expand your readership? I'm thinking elementary school book fairs. Ok maybe not. I'm certainly doing my best. I can't get my wife to read them but I retell each Walking Dead issue to her and she loves it. So thanks for making me sound like a good storyteller. And Charlie, as soon as I get a coffee table, the big hardback edition is going there so everyone can see your rockin' art. You both have really taken the medium to a higher level, so thanks again for your sweat and tears.

Brian Hans

I hope your wife isn't just humoring you. If she really liked it, the lazy broad would READ the things on her own.

As far as cons go. In light of that last comment, I really don't want to appear in any public places where you could find me. That and the fact that I have a small child at home that I really don't enjoy being away from. I'm trying to sit out 2007 completely. But once the boy is old enough, the wife and I will be wanting to take him all over the place--so I'm sure I'll be back on the convention circuit before too long. That is, If I'm still even remotely possible in a year or so.

Dear Kirk-Man:

Big fan of the book. Normally, I am not a big horror genre guy, but TWD is entertaining and original enough to keep me interested month in and month out. Keep up the good work, and I will keep buying it.

Now that the little bit of ass-kissery is out of the way, the main question I have for you is this: Since Bendis seems to love to throw your name in his books, any temptation to do the same in here? Perhaps have one of the survivors rooting through a medical kit and find a tube of Bendis-Brand Hemmrhoidal Cream? Or maybe they sit back and enjoy a nice 40oz bottle of Brubaker Malt Liquor? Who else would you throw in there?

As much as I love seeing my name plastered all through POWERS it REALLY pulls me out of the story when they need to get over to the corner of "Ellis and Brubaker" street or when they meet up with "Detective Joe Quesada EIC of Marvel Comics." I know most of the guys he does at this point and it's distracting to read such specific names all the time. That said, Axel is named after Marvel Editor Axel Alonso--but you'd never know that if I didn't TELL you. So THEY know but it doesn't pull YOU out of the story.

That's how I prefer to do things. Bendis is a hack.

Anyways, thanks for reading this email. Missed you at Wizard World Chicago, maybe next year?

Peace,
Andy Jonathan.

2008 would be the soonest you'll see me at Chicago again.

Dear Robert,

I'm still fairly new to the book, and there are a lot of characters to keep track of: you mind killing some of them off? Rick, I got. And Michonne...Carol is blonde, right? I think I wrote a mail recently asking you some questions, but it might not have gone through. One question was basically: What does God think about the whole alien/ zombie take-over of Earth? I mean he kind of let it happen, right?

God is make believe in the world of The Walking Dead.

How come none of the characters at the prison ever pray?

I'm sure Hershel does... maybe more. I just haven't shown that yet... or, actually... I seem to recall showing Hershel pray at LEAST once.

Another question: How much does it take to kill one of the zombies? Or are they even killable? They're kind of dead already too, right? And with so many dead zombies around how come there's no smell?

There's a smell, but I imagine you'd get used to it after a while. Kill the brain and you kill the zombie.

3) Why are you wrapping up Marvel Team-up? Hopefully to go on to do bigger and better(Captain America) things (again), right?

I'm wrapping up Marvel Team-Up because it's a hard (but fun) book to write and I'd like to move on to other things. It was going to continue, they were actually talking to a big name creator about coming on with 25 at one point--which would have been cool, but sales were so low they decided to end it.

Your mailing address says Lexington, Kentucky? You don't really live there, do you?

I live CLOSE to Lexington. I need to change that P.O. Box...

How come there are no flashbacks in TWD? To b4 the plague--is it considered a plague?--I mean. I think it would be fun.

This isn't LOST--and there's not anything important I've had to show. Issue 7 started with a flashback. Haven't NEEDED to do it since then.

And, finally, I think any good writer or editor would tell you ya got way too many heroes in the book, especially for it being black and white! They mentioned watching a movie in #30; what kinda movies we talkin' about? Recent? How long ago Was the plague anyway?? Maybe Rick and company oughtta just find a tank and go looking for people, huh? Who was the black guy who came back to the prison at the end of #30? I didn't recognize him!! I thought only Rick, Michonne and the meak looking guy went after the helicopter! Nobody called him by name, either: THAT was a BIG help!

It was Tyreese--did I really not say his name? Crud. I do that way too often. Sorry it's hard to follow all the characters. I'll see what I can do about killing some of them off.

I am liking me some Walking Dead though; but I still say Invincible will probably outlast this series in the long run, although both will have pretty healthy runs. How about "Dead End" for a new letters column title, just off the top of my head? How about a riot at the prison? Why am I asking so many questions? What IS Funk-O-Tron, anyway??....

Sincerely
Andrew J. Shaw

Thanks for writing!

Mr. Kirkman,

First, I would like to say that I am a fan of your work (Invincible is the best superhero comic in the universe). However, issue #29 of The Walking Dead is making my fandom a bit shaky.

As a man of African descent, I was quite disturbed and appalled by the image of a strong, powerful black woman stripped of her power and humanity by being raped and brutally beaten by a white man not once, but twice in the same issue.

As a man of white people descent, I was quite disturbed when that white dude cut off that other white dudes hand in the previous issue. But this book isn't meant to make people HAPPY--carry on.

I must say that I am way past tired of this sick, pathological white man's portrayal of black women as some kind of chocolate rape fantasy in film (Pam Grier and Halle Berry anyone?) and specifically in comics. I've already had enough of this shit with Storm. Courtesy of Chris Claremont, she left Africa at the behest of a white man, never looked back and has since been a stripped-down, scantily-clad, placed-in-bondage sex toy for the Hellfire Club and Loki. She's also been stroke-off fodder for horny white male readers who dared cry foul when some spear chucker in Wakanda married her and thus stole their ebony S&M fantasy away from them.

I can't be held responsible for how black women have been treated in comics in general. This is a harsh world and harsh things happen to ALL the people in this book. I'm sorry it was the black woman who got raped but I'm ONLY interested in "could or would that happen in such a situation" and if the answer is yes, I don't feel like I did anything wrong.

But I digress. The matter at hand here is *The Walking Dead* #29.

I understand the idea of dramatic effect in storytelling, but goddamn it, did Michonne have to be tied up spread eagle, raped and tortured? Did a strong black woman have to be broken down to the lowest of the low? Is it a case of art imitating life in the sense that if black people are too strong they not only have to be stopped but destroyed? Would you have put any of the white female characters in the book through the same ordeal? I don't think you would have. You never see strong white female characters in comics being dehumanized like that. I guarantee that Michonne's fate will not be shared by Supergirl, Power Girl and certainly not Wonder Woman.

I'm sure Wonder Woman has been tied up and tortured at a couple points in her career. Ever read Phantom Lady (I think that's what the book was called) that woman was white, and she was tied up on the cover of almost EVERY ISSUE.

I assure you this was not an effort to "destroy" a strong black female.

I know that the comic book industry is an ivory tower that is and always has been ruled by white men of varying ages, sensibilities and prejudices. And those prejudices have often shown themselves in the stereotypical and racist depictions of people of color, specifically African people, and, case in point, African women. I'm not letting Chris Claremont off the hook for writing storm as some exotic sex slave. I'm not letting racist-ass Robert Crumb off the hook for Angelfood McSpade. And, I'm not letting you off the hook for your need to portray yet another black woman rape fantasy in The Walking Dead. Whether you did this unconsciously, subconsciously or very consciously I don't know, but you did it and my conscience won't allow me to sit still and not address this. Some people don't know how to call shit when shit needs to be called, but I'm calling you on this, Mr. Kirkman.

You're more than entitled to be pissed off and to tell me your pissed off. But when a white male is raped, I hope you're just as upset. And when a white woman has something bad happen to her... and when anything generally rotten happens to any character in this book... I expect an email.

I'll spare you a lengthy diatribe about how the rape of African women by white men was part of the dehumanization process during slavery, but I will say that I know several African American readers of The Walking Dead and they too have expressed their disgust at the portrayal of a black woman getting raped by a white man. Some have told me that they're not going to read the book anymore. The black female readers that I know have especially expressed their disgust. Even though we all know that Michonne is going to get some medieval-on-your-ass payback on that no-good, Dick Dastardly-looking cracker, it won't begin to make up for her humanity being robbed like that. The image of Michonne's bloody, swollen face is still difficult for me to look at. And I don't want to hear any of that "but the rape was off panel" shit either.

It was SUPPOSED to be difficult for you to look at. It was supposed to make you upset. You're supposed to care about these characters enough to be pissed off when bad things happen to them.

But listen, if I was portraying The Governor as anything but an evil psychotic freak--if he had even the smallest hint of "this is an okay guy" that would be completely racist of me... and I would expect to be "called out." But I had a horrible character do a horrible thing to show how horrible he was.

And it was Michonne because she's a character readers would expect to die--the danger is more real for her. Rick has survived enough that readers think he might be safe. Also, in the scene that lead to her rape--Rick's hand was cut off, Michonne attacked Governor, causing him to retaliate.

I couldn't cut Michonne's hand off--and have Rick attack Gov, and then get raped, simply because a side character getting a hand cut off ISN'T a big deal. It had to be RICK. So then the options for a character attacking are Michonne and Glenn--it seemed more in-character to me for Michonne to attack instead of Glenn. I wanted to kind of have Glenn freaking out--this is the first time he's really been around some shit like this. Sure, he crept around zombies to gather supplies but he'd never seen someone whack off someone else's hand--that would STILL be traumatic.

I'm just saying, there's a logical reason for everything... and it's NOT racial in motivation.

Mr. Kirkman, I met you and took a photo with you at the 2006 San Diego Comic Con and you seem like a really cool guy. I don't want to believe that you're a racist, but I really don't think that you understand the gravity of the images you have portrayed, especially to your African American fans, particularly your female ones. You're one of my favorite writers in the business. I love Invincible and it was that love that made me want to read The Walking Dead in the first place, but I don't know if I can read it anymore after this. It's a damn shame because like I said, I am a fan. At least I think I still am.

Militantly yours,
Sundjata Abubakari

What would you prefer? Do you REALLY want every African-American character to be SAFE because I don't want to look like a racist? Do you want to read a book like that? A book

where characters you relate to have no danger--no suspense because you know I can't hurt them for fear of a backlash?

That's not the kind of book I want to write.

NOBODY is safe in this book. NOBODY. If I kill a Jewish person am I going to hear from Jewish people? Rodriguez is the first Hispanic character in the book. Does he have to be safe so that race remains represented? I CAN'T THINK like that or the stories will suffer.

Please cut me some slack here.

Hi Robert,

I have a few thoughts about WD.

In WD #29, why haven't the zombie heads in the box chewed up Rick's hand, which was in there with them?

Maybe they were--we didn't show inside the box. Or maybe they were stacked with their mouths AWAY from the head.

A nasty thought: if Lori's baby died in utero, would it turn zombie and chew her up?

It's possible.

What is the status of wildlife and animals in general? Are they all being chewed up like the deer we saw early on, or are some of them managing to coexist, or even *benefit* from the presence of zombies in their ecosystems (ie: ravens, rats)?

I'm sure it's a little bit of everything. I don't assume much of the wildlife is affected now that there are essentially REALLY SLOW humans without guns running around out there. I would think most wildlife would be better off in this situation.

I really hope the narrative trajectory might turn to the comparison of good and bad leadership (ala "Watership Down" and "Platoon") as I do think Rick has the potential to be a truly great, really heroic and visionary leader, and this travails could well make him an even better one! The loss of this right hand *is* seriously disabling (I had a busted hand a few years ago and that made life difficult enough), but maybe it will help him to use his heart and his intellect to make consistently better decisions.

Keep it coming!

Best wishes,
Ian C. Thomas

Yeah, Rick is definitely going to have some hard times ahead of him.

Ya Know..
10 years ago, when I was 16 I stopped buying comics. Completely Cold Turkey. Before that I was spending \$150-200 a month on comics. So I quit. Moved on to other things and whatnot.

Worst mistake of your life... probably.

Then one day I see The Walking Dead. I Love Zombies. Always Have. My favorite movie ever is the original Night of the Living Dead. I used to love comics. So I took a chance and bought it.

I Loved it! Bought every single issue so far (Currently #30). You gave me back the happy feelings I used to have when I was younger and comics were fun to read. Not the endless scavenger hunt to find every variant cover or special edition that ended up ruining comics for me. Not the buying every comic included in the newest mega-crossover gimmick to snag collectors. Not the buying every comic that I will never read because it has a cover drawn by one of my favorite artists.

No. You gave me back the art of READING a comic. Enjoying it from beginning to end and waiting so patiently yet eagerly for the next issue regardless of when it gets released.

Each time I see a new issue I tense up. I Gasp! I'm excited and can't wait to get home and read it. Even if it only lasts me 15 minutes, the wait is worth it.

Yes, your team is THAT good.

I just wanted to tell you that.

I only need to say thank you once. Thank You!

-Derek Burns

You know--if you want it to last LONGER than 15 minutes... you could read the letters columns. But you'll probably never read THIS... so there's really nothing I can do for you.

Mr. Kirkman,

Good evening. So, I see a lot of letters from “Zombie fans” who love your book, which is the obvious result of reading a story on a topic you like, but not many from people like me who really never got into the whole “Zombie” thing. Don’t get me wrong, it’s not the “idea” I don’t like but I think more the comedy that’s usually associated. I was relieved to read that you will be keeping this title “dead serious.”

I’ve gotten plenty of letters that start with “I don’t like zombies--but I read this book” SO THERE!

Ya so, I never was into the Zombie thing really, and when the owner of my comic shop of choice (Mike from Main Street Comics in Jersey) told me I had to read it I was sure it was going to be something I read and then passed on. Wow, was I wrong. This is now at the top of my read list and I have Mike and you to thank for it! Well more you, but Mike played a role at least. :) What has worked for me is that this book has stayed away from the “hilarity” of the zombie animals and the aptly dressed cheerleader and athlete zombies. Not that I don’t find them funny, but I am much more likely to be in for the long haul on a book that makes me think and analyze rather than giggle and move on. So thank you much for such a great book and for allowing me to finally appreciate a good “zombie tale.”

I prefer serious zombie stories myself.

Also, because you print the majority of letters that contain criticism, a new reader might get the idea that this book isn’t living up to its hype. With rave reviews, shout-outs on G4’s Attack of the Show, and a generally positive word of mouth, one might think you’ve slipped. In my opinion, that couldn’t be further from the truth. The book is AWESOME! Not just a good read, but one of the best I have read in my 15 years of comic book reading. The story has moved along just perfect so please ignore the “not enough zombie” stuff. A good story is one that not only entertains but captivates.

Yeah, I’ve had people ask if the book is still doing well because I print all the negative mail. I mean, for every negative letter I print there’s like five that just say “hey--love the book.” I can’t print THOSE in a letters column. How do I respond to the same thing 20 times? The negative mail is much more fun to respond to and it’s more fun to read.

I love the cliffhanger endings and detailed story lines. This book, like very few others, (Girls by the Luna Brothers, Y the Last Man by BKV are good examples) tells a story that we become captivated with the more we learn about it. This genre has been done time and time again and yet we are still surprised when you reveal your latest plot twist, zombie related or not. That’s hard to do with today’s “over saturation of information,” so kudos are due indeed.

And what’s a letter without numbered questions I ask?

1. Why is it that the interior art is black and white? Its great and all, just curious. Is the cost to color that much of a factor?

Actually, I think because of the cover stock we use and paper quality it costs MORE per issue to print than Invincible. I could make this book color and change the paper quality and SAVE money.

2. When do we get to find out how the whole Zombie thing started? (Not rushing you just needed a number 2)

Your loyal reader,
~Dan Murray

NEVER. Sorry.

Dear Mr.Kirkman (Sorry Gangsta Dick Cheney won the title of “Mr. Daddy” for this month)

I’d like to start by saying you and the whole team (Adlard, Rathburn and Wooton) are doing an AWESOME job! And the suspense in Issue 30, first making us wonder if the figure we saw running to the prison was actually Glenn was bad enough but saving the governor’s response to Rick in the end of issue 29 till the last page, pure evil! And now for some questions!

1) Why hasn’t natural Decomposition of the zombies set in? There is a Beautiful back cover on issue 28 wher a zombie girl appears to have maggots on one of her shoulders (My favorite back cover so far actually) and it got me thinking, why haven’t we seen hordes of carrion feeders preying on the undead? Vultures, Maggots, Rats, and Ants, those kind of things?

We’ve seen a little of that. They’re there.

2) Since finding the prison it doesn’t seem like the main characters have had much of an interest in finding other people, which I thought would be one of their top priorities. Doesn’t it make sense that by now they would have at least tried to secure a CB radio?

They’ve been busy.

3) When can we expect the return of Rick’s zombie hand? Im hoping that by issue 50 it

makes its comeback leading a horde of severed limbs.

NO.

Well I think that’s enough questions for one letter. And thanks again for an awesome read every month!

Sincerely,
Jeff Wiebe

Thanks--we’ll keep trying to not suck.

Mr. Kirkman,

(insert first time writing to a letters page remark)

The Walking Dead is probably the best comic book in the universe and I would just like to say thanks alot for all your hard work. A few questions...

1-With all that has taken place in the world of TWD why hasn’t there been any talk of God? I understand that that’s not what the book is about but still if I were Rick I couldn’t help but wonder. Yet, in all fairness I guess they are to busy trying to survive to worry about the afterlife.

I’ll try to mention it a few more times as the book goes on. It’s been mentioned before--just not very much.

2-I don’t mean this in a racist sort of way, but do you think it’s possible that zombies prefer certain ethnicities or races because they taste better? I mean I’m not a cannibal or anything (although when I was younger I did go through a phase in which I ate my scabs)...

GOOD LORD. WHAT?

I think I’ve gone too far so I’ll end things here by saying, keep up the good work.

(insert please print my letter remark)
Vin Gilante

You’re a nut, Vin.

Now, immediately following this page you will find a PREVIEW for RED WARRIOR, a new graphic novel from Beckett and Image Comics. It’s written by Jeff Amano and drawn by Andy MacDonald (of NYC MECH fame). While I haven’t yet had the chance to read the book I will say that Jeff and Beckett have been putting out some fine, high quality books from Image over the last year or so and I’m sure this one is no different.

So check it out and if you like what you see--hunt the book down. It’s actually ALREADY in stores, so it’s really not much of a preview.

Enjoy!

ITEM! If you like this book and you’ve read a superhero comic before you should be reading INVINCIBLE. I write the book and it’s drawn and colored by Ryan Ottley and Bill Crabtree. It’s a swell book.

ITEM! Clayburn Moore, sculptor of the INVINCIBLE statue (in stores now) just sent me new photos of the Rick Grimes sculpture. It’s looking DAMN AMAZING and I think you guys will ALL be happy with this one. I’ll share photos here as soon as I can. It’s GREAT! Should be available around summer time unless I’m mistaken.

ITEM! THE IRREDEEMABLE ANT-MAN just launched and the reviews are good. People seem to be liking this book and I certainly like it. Phil Hester, Ande Parks and Bill Crabtree are all killing in the penciling, inking and coloring departments. Issue 2 should be in stores by the time this issue ships so be on the lookout!

ITEM! My ULTIMATE X-MEN run is just heating up. We’re smack dab in the middle of the senses shattering CABLE four-part arc and I’m telling you--this ones going to be huge. Miss it at your own risk!

ITEM! Buy BATTLE POPE--come on--you know you want it. Issue 11 just shipped... it’s a Christmas story. You like Christmas don’t you? You more than likely like JESUS too right? This book is for YOU! (yeah, you!)

ITEM! I think I’m done but I really like typing “ITEM!”

ITEM! Yeah... I’m done.

See you back here next month! (or sooner--seriously)

-Robert Kirkman

NEXT ISSUE

REVENGE



CLIFF
Chap 4 '06



EMPIRE